

V I T A
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Gene Bottoms has served as Director of the Southern Regional Education Board's *High Schools That Work* initiative since 1987. In July 1997, Gene was promoted to Senior Vice President of the Southern Regional Education Board, reflecting his role in and SREB's interest in and commitment to the *High Schools That Work* initiative. *High Schools That Work* is the largest effort in America to improve high schools for career-bound students. The program involves over 1,000 high schools in over 32 states. Numerous other states and school districts throughout the nation are adopting the *HSTW* goals and key practices as a way to improve high school for all youth, especially career-bound youth.

Prior to joining the Southern Regional Education Board, Gene served as Executive Director of the American Vocational Association, where he emphasized academics as an integral part of vocational education at the secondary and postsecondary levels. He served as Director of Educational Improvement for the Georgia Department of Education for 13 years, overseeing improvement efforts in both vocational and academic education.

In September 1995, Gene received the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. This award is presented annually to individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge through education.

In 2000, Gene was appointed to the National Commission on the Senior Year.

Gene has been a local school teacher, principal and guidance counselor. He is a native of Georgia and a product of its public school system.
